

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6111
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3277

EMBASSIES PARIS, THE HAGUE, & ANKARA FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NO
SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATION OF AMEMBASSY OSLO'S ODC AND DAO OFFICES

REFS: (A) USCINCEUR DTG 051730Z JUL 78 (B) OJCS 122017Z JUN
78 (NOTAL)

1. I READ REF A WITH GREAT INTEREST AS WE IN OSLO ARE ON
RECORD AS FAVORING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE ODC AND DAO.
WE FULLY CONCUR WITH THE TWO POINTS DOD MENTIONED IN THEIR
RESPONSE TO STATE; NAMELY, THAT THE COMBINATION SHOULD TAKE
PLACE ONLY WHERE IT WOULD NOT DEGRADE THE MISSIONS' CAPACITY
TO CARRY OUT BOTH ATTACHE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS
AND THAT EACH CASE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL
MERITS.

2. OUR INITIAL CONCLUSION IS THAT WHILE CONSOLIDATION
OF ODC AND DAO INTO A MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION (MAS) MIGHT NOT
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WORK IN ALL MISSIONS, IT WOULD IN OSLO. SUCH A CONSOLIDATION
WILL SERVE TWO IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES: IT WILL LEAD TO A MORE
EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE WITHIN THE MISSION;
AND IT WILL ALLOW US TO REDUCE OUR PERSONNEL MANNING LEVELS.
IT THUS MEETS BOTH OF THE PREREQUISITES FOR SUCH A CONSOLIDATION
SET OUT BY CINCEUR (REF A, PARA 3A).

3. A MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION WOULD RESULT IN GREATER RATIONALIZATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF BOTH OFFICES MORE IN ACCORD WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN NORWAY. IN MY VIEW THE TIME WHEN WE NEEDED A LARGE MILITARY ASSISTANCE OFFICE (BY WHATEVER NAME) IS GONE. AS THE NORWEGIAN US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP ENTERS THE 1980S IT WILL CONCENTRATE MUCH MORE ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE ALLIED MILITARY POSTURE ON THE NORTHERN FLANK THROUGH PREPOSITIONING AND REINFORCEMENT AND MUCH LESS ON UNILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING AND CLASSIC MILITARY INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS. IN ORDER FOR THIS MISSION MOST EFFICIENTLY TO EXECUTE AMERICAN DEFENSE POLICY IN NORWAY WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPER EXPERTISE IS PRESENT IN THE MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION AND TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONNEL. IF SUCH A REORDERING IS ACHIEVED, AND I BELIEVE IT MUST BE, IT WILL ALLOW US TO ADDRESS THE CHANGING REQUIREMENTS OF THE NORWEGIAN/US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT DUPLICATION.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CUT SEVERAL POSITIONS FROM OUR MAS WHEN WE COMBINE THE TWO OFFICES. THIS WILL EFFECT CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS TO THE US TAXPAYER, CONSISTENT WITH WHAT I TAKE THE PRESIDENT'S AND CONGRESS' DESIRES TO BE.

5. REF A ALSO MAKES THE POINT THAT IT MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IF WE MINGLE THE INTELLIGENCE AND THE ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT COMBINATION WOULD CAUSE VERY LITTLE DIFFICULTY
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HERE IN NORWAY. THIS IS A SOPHISTICATED COUNTRY AND A CLOSE NATO ALLY WITH A SMALL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. I DO NOT THINK THAT COMBINATION WOULD PRODUCE ANY CONFUSION IN THE MINDS OF THE NORWEGIANS CONCERNED. INDEED, AS IT PRESENTLY STANDS, MANY OF THE KEY CONTACTS OF MY DAO AND ODC OFFICERS OVERLAP EACH OTHER. MOREOVER, WE ARE CURRENTLY THE ONLY MISSION IN OSLO WHICH SEPARATES THE TWO FUNCTIONS AND NORWAY'S MISSION IN THE US CONTAINS NO SUCH SEPARATION. IT IS HARD TO ARGUE, THEREFORE, THAT THE GON WILL NOT UNDERSTAND A MAS. NOR IS THERE ANY RECORD HERE (CONTRARY TO REF A), THAT THE GON "PERCEIVED A LOSS OF STATUS AND USG FAVOR" WHEN WE CONVERTED OUR MAAG TO AN ODC. ON THE CONTRARY, THE CHANGEOVER WAS MET WITH COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY.

6. WE WILL CERTAINLY NEED TO BE MINDFUL, AS CINCEUR HAS NOTED, OF THE NEED TO KEEP COMMAND STRUCTURES IN THE MAS CLEAR. THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED, TOO, IN OUR FORMAL PROPOSAL, WHICH WE WILL SUBMIT TO WASHINGTON BY AUGUST 1, 1978.

7. I WOULD URGE THAT WE ALL LOOK AT THE POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF THE ODC AND DAO WITH A VIEW TOWARD IMPROVING EACH MISSION'S CAPABILITY TO IMPLEMENT AMERICAN SECURITY POLICY. I BELIEVE

THAT WHEN THE SITUATION IS LOOKED AT ON AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY-
BY-COUNTRY BASIS WE WILL FIND THAT THE FUNCTION WILL BE
ENHANCED BY COMBINATION IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORWAY.
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